

Message Text

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USEEC

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 10387 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN LONDON
MOSCOW OSLO PARIS STOCKHOLM JULY 10.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 10387

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ECE

SUBJECT: ECE - MEETING OF SPECIAL GROUP ON LONG-RANGE
TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION (TBAP)

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL GROUP ON TBAP MET JULY 3 AND 4. A
QUESTIONNAIRE WAS APPROVED WHICH SECRETARIAT WILL CIRCULATE
TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS REQUESTING BASIC INFORMATION ON
AIR POLLUTION. RESPONSES WILL BE REQUESTED BY AUGUST 15,
BUREAU OF SPECIAL GROUP WILL CONSIDER AND COLLATE THESE
RESPONSES ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THIS
WORK TO NEXT MEETING OF SPECIAL GROUP OCTOBER 2-4.
SPECIAL GROUP WILL PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO SAEP
AT THEIR OCTOBER 11-13 MEET. IN GENERAL, DELEGATIONS TOOK
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POSITIVE APPROACH TOWARD REACHING AGREEMENT AND THERE WERE
NO MAJOR CONFLICTS. SOVIETS, AS EXPECTED, RESISTED
PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC POLLUTION SOURCES.

2. PORTION OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT 33RD SESSION OF ECE
PERTINENT TO TBAP LISTS SIX PRINCIPAL ITEMS. SPECIAL
GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE IS LIMITED TO FIRST TWO ITEMS, NAMELY

A) DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR COMBATting AIR POLLUTION PLUS CERTAIN COST ESTIMATES AND, B) INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ON RESEARCH. ITEMS THUS OMITTED INCLUDE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND POSSIBLE FORM OF AN AGREEMENT ON LIMITING TBAP. US DELEGATION STATED THAT IF ESTABLISHED DEADLINES ARE TO BE MET, ALL SIX POINTS OF ECE RESOLUTION MUST BE CONSIDERED SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS POSITION SUPPORTED BY NORDICS AND CANADA BUT EC-9 AND SOVIET PREFERENCE FOR SEQUENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS PREVAILED. EC-9 PREFERENCE FOR SEQUENTIAL APPROACH PROBABLY IS DELAYING TACTIC WHILE SOVIETS WANTED TO AVOID POINT THREE OF ECE RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERN-
ING NEW AND EXISTING SOURCES OF POLLUTION. EACH GOVERN7
MENT IT REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESPONSES TO RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN ECE GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS TO SECRETARIAT. WE PROVIDED NAME OF HERBERT SPIELMAN (OES/ENP/EN) AS RECIPIENT OF THESE RESPONSES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND PRESENTED A NORDIC DRAFT FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON THE REDUCTION OF TBAP. THE EC-9 DID NOT CHALLENGE THE CONCEPT OF A FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TBAP THEREFORE APPARENTLY ACCEPTING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A CONVENTION. THE SPECIAL GROUP AGREED TO INVITE ECE GOVERNMENTS TO COMMENT ON THIS DRAFT AND SUGGESTED THAT DELEGATIONS TO THE OCTOBER 2-4 SPECIAL GROUP MEETING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD INCLUDE LEGAL EXPERTS. THIS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT CIRCUMVENTS THE LIMITATIONS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE WHICH WERE NOTED ABOVE.

4. SOVIETS ACTIVELY RESISTED ANY NOTIONS OR PROVIDING INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF EMISSIONS OR DATA ON CONCENTRATIONS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS. AT THEIR DEMAND, ITEM IN QUESTIONNAIRE ON NEW AND EXISTING SOURCES OF POLLUTION WAS OMITTED. SOVIET DELEGATE STATED OOMAT RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF TBAP DID NOT REQUIRE INFORMATION FROM GOVERNMENTS ON SPECIFIC NATIONAL SOURCES OF EMISSION; IT WOULD SUFFICE TO CONSIDER ONLY FLOWS ACROSS BORDERS INTO ANOTHER COUNTRY. STATED ANOTHER WAY, THE SOVIETS WILL APPARENTLY ACCEPT POLLUTION MONITORING STATIONS ON THEIR BORDERS BUT NOT IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. THE FRG, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9, CHALLENGED THIS POSITION AND STATED THAT THE SUCCESS OF A HLM WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY ON THE WILLINGNESS OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE DETAILED INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF POLLUTION. NORWAY CHALLENGED THAT ASSERTION STATING THAT THE SUCCESS OF A HLM WILL DEPEND ON THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO SOLVE THE POLLUTION PROBLEM.

THE US DELEGATION DID NOT COMMENT ON THIS MATTER.

5. TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS MUST BE CONSIDERED PRIOR TO THE NEXT SPECIAL GROUP MEETING. FIRST, THE NORDIC DRAFT FRAMEWORK CONVENTION MUST RECEIVE CAREFUL ATTENTION FROM APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS. IT REPRESENTS A SERIOUS AND CONSIDERED EFFORT TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA TO BEGIN WORKING ON A REDUCTION OF TBAP AND WE MUST BE PREPARED TO COMMENT CONSTRUCTIVELY AND KNOWLEDGEABLY ON THIS DOCUMENT. SECONDLY, IF WE ARE TO PRESSURE SOVIETS TO PROVIDE DETAILED EMISSIONS INFORMATION, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT SOLIDLY DOCUMENTED CASE TO SUPPORT VIEW THAT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION IS NECESSARY AND THAT INFORMATION ON FLOWS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACROSS BORDERS IN INADEQUATE. IN ADDITION TO THE LARGER POLITICAL ISSUES IN USA-USSR RELATIONS, WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER AFFECT ON PRESENT USSR PARTICIPATION IN THE ECE PROGRAM TO MONITOR LONG-RANGE AIR POLLUTION AND OUR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS IN THE ENVIRONMENT AREA.

6. SOVIET CONDUCT AT THIS MEETING MUST BE DESCRIBED AS CONSTRUCTIVE EXCEPT ON QUESTION OF PROVIDING INFORMATION. THEY PLAYED LOW KEY ROLE WHILE NORDICS, ESPECIALLY NORWAY, TOOK LEAD IN MAKING THIS A SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE MEETING.

7. MISSION APPRECIATES EFFORTS OF DR. WILLIAM WILSON WHOSE KNOWLEDGE IN THIS AREA MADE HIM EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT USA. WE HOPE HE WILL BE DESIGNATED TO REPRESENT THE USA IN FUTURE MEETINGS WHERE TBAP BEING CONSIDERED. VANDEN HEUVEL UNQUOTE VANCE

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